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July 10th.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

A letter was read from Professor Eschricht, dated Copenhagen, June 7th, 1848, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent, and proposing exchanges of the publications of Danish Societies for those of the Academy.

A letter was read from the Rev. Thomas S. Savage, dated Sumterville, Alabama, June 20th, 1849, addressed to Dr. Hallowell, and enclosing an interesting communication on the Driver Ants of Western Africa, intended for publication in the Proceedings. The latter was referred to the following committee: Prof. Haldeman, Dr. Leidy, and Dr. Hallowell.

July 31st.

Vice President MORTON in the Chair.

The Committee to whom was referred Dr. Hallowell's description of a new *Eryx*, from Madras, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Description of a species of Eryx, from Madras.

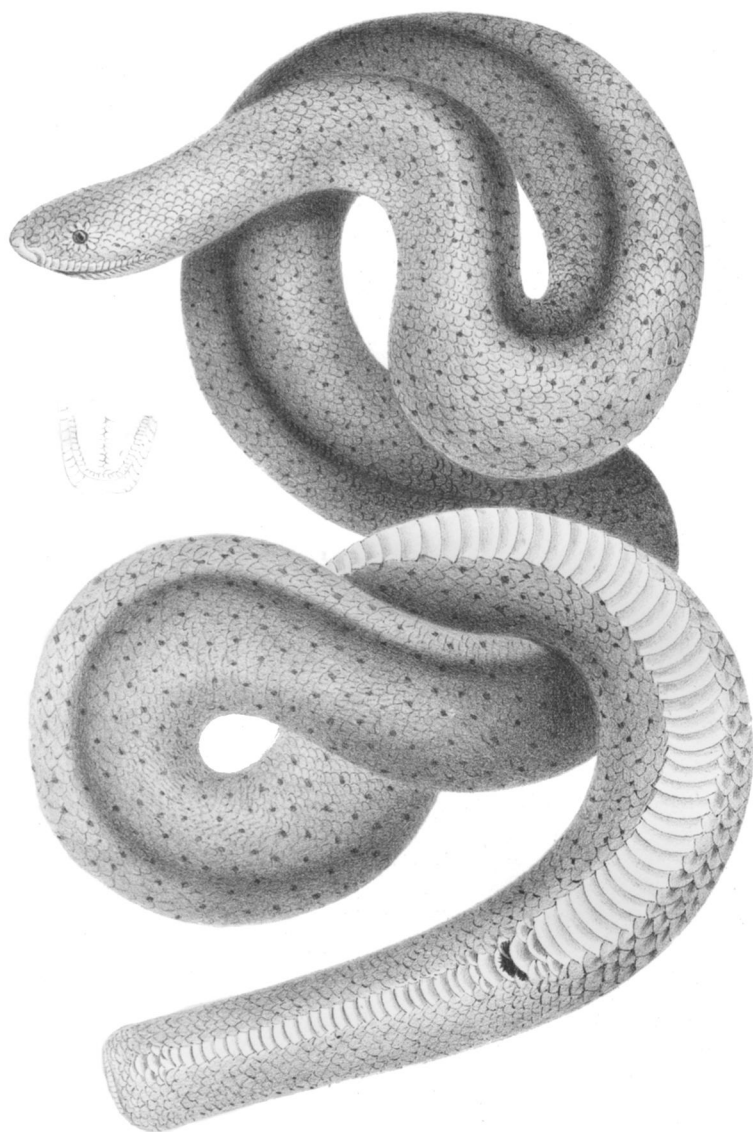
By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

Eryx maculatus.

Description.—Head of moderate size, depressed, covered with scales, larger in front; rostral plate large, triangular; a single nasal plate on each side; nostril small; thirteen labial plates margin the upper jaw; pupil vertical, eye surrounded by a circular series of plates; iris brownish red; neck of same size as head posteriorly; body thicker in the middle, becoming somewhat slender towards the tail; scales small, carinated; a row of single plates under the tail, followed by others which are bifid; tail short, truncate, (mutilated?)

Color.—Light brown above, with numerous spots of the same tint but darker; abdomen light slate color.

Observations.—This beautiful reptile was pointed out to me so long ago as 1840, by the late Dr. Harlan. It was brought from Madras, in the neighborhood of which it was found upon a sandy soil. It appeared to be perfectly harmless. The drawing was taken during life by Mr. Richard, and is remarkable for its accuracy. The above short description is made up from it, the notes which were written during its life having been mislaid. It, however, is so good that a description of any kind is almost unnecessary. The entire length was about one foot and a half. I have long hesitated to publish a description of this animal, coming as it does from a part of the British possessions so well known as Madras, but having recently observed in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History, several species of reptiles described by Mr. Gray as new from the same locality, not being found in the British Museum, and differing so entirely as it does from any figure of *Eryx* hitherto published, I have ventured to present it to the Academy with the name I have given it.



ERYX MACULATUS.

The Committee on Dr. Keller's analysis of a calculus from the bladder of a Whale, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Chemical Analysis of a Calculus from the bladder of a Whale.

By WILLIAM KELLER, M. D.

Whalers report that it is not unusual to find a number of calculi in the bladder of the whale. These calculi are about the size of a hen's egg, on the surface very smooth, and of a white color. On breaking them they are seen to be formed of concentric layers, from the thickness of a sheet of paper to that of a quarter of an inch; the chemical composition throughout being very nearly the same. Mr. Saul Muller and myself took for analysis different layers, and found them of the same composition. The chief constituent of the calculus is the double phosphate of ammonia and magnesia. The quantity of ammonia could not be directly ascertained, passing off at the summer temperature. But it will be seen that the quantity of phosphate of magnesia found, will answer to the quantity of ammonia and water found necessary for the formation of the double phosphate.

The pulverized stone was first exposed to the heat of a water bath, to ascertain the quantity of water; heated with ether and alcohol to find the quantity of fat; then dissolved in nitric acid, the residuum incinerated, the loss was organic matter and uric acid, while the residuum was silicic acid. The quantity of magnesia was ascertained as ammoniaco-magnesian phosphate, the phosphoric acid as phosphate of iron. The carbonic acid, the quantity of which was very small, was found by the apparatus of Will and Fresenius. The rest of the component parts were in such small quantities that they could not be weighed: they were iron, lime, chlorine and soda. The ammonia and water were ascertained by calculation.

Analysis.

| <i>Found.</i> | | | <i>Calculated.</i> | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| P ₂ O ₅ | | 27.21 | P ₂ O ₅ | | 27.21 |
| Mg O | | 15.75 | Mg O | | 15.75 |
| Fat | | 0.39 | NH ₄ | | 6.08 |
| U | | 2.66 | HO | | 44.59 |
| Si O ₂ | | 2.18 | Fat | | 0.89 |
| HO | | 32.17 | U | | 2.66 |
| CO ₂ | | 0.05 | Si O ₂ | | 2.18 |
| | | <hr/> | CO ₂ | | <hr/> |
| | | 80.41 | | | 98.81 |
| Traces of NaO, CaO, FeO, Cl. | | | | | |